

[Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters](#)

Pension Application of Zachariah Alvis S8015

Transcribed and annotated by C. Leon Harris

State of Virginia } Ss.

Goochland County }

On this 17th day of September 1832 personally appeared in open court, before the [blank space] justices of the peace, the court of Goochland County now sitting, Zachariah Alvis, a resident of the County of Goochland, and State of Virginia aged seventy one years, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832

that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers, and served as herein stated.

In the first instance the company of Militia that I was in was drafted into divisions for tours of duty & when it came to my turn in the division which I stood, I was ordered out with others to perform a tour of duty from the County of Goochland in which I then resided, & marched under Cap'n. William H. Miller, (a militia Captain in the County of Goochland) to the County of Albemarle, and served out the tour, in guarding the British prisoners, called the Saratoga prisoners [captured there 17 Oct 1777] at the Albemarle Barracks in the County of Albemarle. I have no certain recollection of the length of the tour, but believe I was out at least one month: when relief came from the county of Goochland, the company I was in was discharged and marched home: – I am not certain as to the time but think it was in the latter part of the year 1779. – I think Col. [Francis] Taylor was the commanding officer at the Albemarle barracks. – Not long after returning home, I was again ordered out for a second tour of duty and marched from the County of Goochland under the command of Cap'n. Edward Smith (a militia captain) to the Albemarle barracks in the County of Albemarle, & served out a second tour of duty the same length of time, & when relieved marched home. Some time thereafter (the date I have no recollection of) when Tarleton came to Charles City Courthouse and did a good deal of mischief in that neighborhood [probably May 1781], all the Militia of Goochland County were called out and I marched under Cap'n. Thomas Hatcher, (a militia captain in Goochland county) to Sandy point on James River below Richmond [near present Tettington], & there we were put under the command of Col. Charles Fleming & crossed James River to Cabbin point, and after remaining there some considerable time were discharged & returned home to the County of Goochland. I cannot now recollect the length of that tour, but believe it was about three months: we had no engagement with the enemy, but took a good many prisoners, that deserted from the enemy. – After returning home from that tour, I moved into the County of Hanover, in the fall of that year, and having failed to carry from my Cap'n. a certificate of the division in which I stood in Goochland, I was drafted in the militia of Hanover County for a three months tour of duty, and marched under the command of Capt'n. Charles Dabney of Hanover County to Williamsburg, and was at Williamsburg when Cornwallis came & took Williamsburg [see endnote]: we then retreated across the River at Ruffins ferry [on Pamunkey River at Sweet Hall]: – we marched about the country for some time, and joined the Marquis La-Fayette [Lafayette] at Allens creek in the County of Hanover [late May], I marched under the command of La-Fayette to little York. – At Williamsburg I recollect Major [Thomas] Armistead was one of the field officers that I was under; – the names of the other field officers I cannot recollect. – When we marched from Allens creek under the command of La-Fayette, I recollect that a Major McCluman [probably Christian Charles de Klauman] appointed me his bowman [servant], in which capacity I served a short time & not liking the business got excused from it. At York I received a regular discharge in writing which I have lost, not supposing it would ever be of any use, I took no care of it. After the surrender of Cornwallis [19 Oct 1781], I lived one or two years in Hanover County, (where

I was born the 25th day of May 1761 as I was informed & believed) to the County of Goochland, in which last mentioned county I have resided ever since that time & still continue to reside. — I have no record of my age, & state the time of my birth from the information of my parents who have been dead long since. I was so frequently called into service when there would be an alarm & out a short time which I took no account of, that I cant possibly say how long I was in service, but I can safely say that I was at least eight months in service. Being required to state the names of persons to whom I am known in my present neighbourhood, and who can testify as to my character &c. I can answer and say that I am known by every person in the neighborhood & as it would be too tedious to enumerate all their names, will only mention a few that have been long acquainted with me, to wit, James Pleasants esq'r. late Governor of Virginia, Capt'n. Robert W. Pleasants one of the justices of the peace in Goochland County; Doctor Thomas Curd, another justice of the peace in said County; Col. Benjamin Anderson, another justice of the peace in said County; Mr. William Miller clerk of the Superior Court & also clerk of the County Court in said County & Mr. David Royster.

I have no documentary evidence, and don't now know of any living person, whose testimony I can procure, who can testify to his personal knowledge of my service. I do hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and declare that my name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state.

Zachariah hisXmark Alvis

State of Virginia } SS
Goochland County }

On this 22^d day of May 1833 personally appeared before me Tho. Curd a Justice of the peace in and for the County aforesaid Zachariah Alvis a resident of the said County and State and being duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following supplement to his declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7 1832 – That in his first tour as set forth in his former declaration, he served, to the best of his belief one month as private in the infantry – that in his second tour he served a similar time and in the same capacity – That in his third tour under Captain Hatcher as formerly related, he served three months to the best of his recollection, in the same grade – and that in his last tour as heretofore related, he served also three months in the same grade – And also that he may have mistaken the Christian name of his Captain in this tour, but knows his name was Dabney.

NOTE: Williamsburg had been captured by British forces under Gen. William Phillips on 20 Apr 1781. Cornwallis arrived there late in June 1781.